

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the examination of the present application that is evidenced by the Official Action of February 3, 2006. In response to the Official Action, Applicants hereby affirm the election of the Group I invention. Claims 11-17 and 20 have also been canceled. The title of the application has been amended to reflect the subject matter of the currently pending claims. In addition, Applicants are submitting replacement drawing sheets with amended FIGS. 1-2. In particular, FIGS. 1-2 have been amended to correct an inadvertent omission of the reference "t", which represents a thickness of a semiconductor wafer. The use of this reference "t" in FIGS. 1-2 is consistent with the same reference "t" shown in FIGS. 3-4 and described at pages 3 and 5 of the written specification of the application (e.g., summary and detailed description). Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to approve these replacement drawing sheets.

Based on the above claim cancellations and drawing amendments, the sole outstanding issue is the rejection of Claims 1-10 and 18-19 under 35 USC § 112. To address this outstanding rejection, Applicants respectfully submit the present application accurately describes "t" as "the thickness of the semiconductor wafer," which is properly illustrated by original FIGS. 3-4 and amended FIGS. 1-2. The reference "t" does not refer to any edge profile thickness. With respect to the remaining section 112 issues raised at page 4 of the Official Action, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertions of indefiniteness. This is because Claims 1-10 incorporate FIG. 1 by reference and Claims 18-19 incorporate FIG. 2 by reference. These figures provide all the necessary detail to support the claimed recitations and are also properly treated as "recitations" within the claims. Applicants acknowledge that incorporating figures into claim language is generally rare, however, such incorporation is appropriate for describing the present invention because otherwise the *"verbiage necessary to define areas now defined by reference to the [figure] would be so extensive and involved as to defeat the very purpose of a claim."* In re Faust, 86 USPQ 114, 116 ("mathematical and chemical formula have long been accepted as proper forms of claim expression. A chart delineating areas, as in the instant

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case, is equally free from any circumscribing zone of uncertainty which may be present in a claim whose boundary lines are verbally drawn".); Ex parte Gring and Mooi, 158 USPQ 109, 110 ("it has been held proper to make reference in a claim to a figure of an application drawing where such reference points out with sufficient clarity what could be set forth in words only with prolixity and less clarity".); Ex parte Squires, 133 USPQ 598, 600 ("we ... are inclined to agree that, under the circumstances of this particular case, reference to a pictorial showing of the outline of the object sought to be covered by patent is the best, most accurate way of defining the invention"); and MPEP 2173.05(s). To further support this argument that incorporation of figures into claim language is appropriate, Applicants hereby attach as Exhibits copies of U.S. Patent Nos. 2,259,453; 1,992,325; 2,407,543; and 3,034,806, which are attached hereto. These patents provide examples of how the incorporation of figure detail into claim language can prevent a claim from being indefinite. Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that once the illustrations of FIGS. 1 and 2, which show EP_{in} and EP_{out}, are properly considered as pictorial illustrations of claim recitations, all pending claims will meet the requirements of 35 USC § 112.

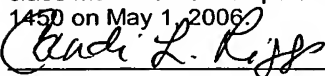
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